

Frequently Asked Questions

Overview

How do the population estimate and number of residents age 16+ differ?

Who are UI Claimants?

What is a New Hire?

What is AGIA?

What are Hot Jobs?

Where does the Population Over Time Information come from?

What changes in geography have occurred since the 2000 census?

Overview

The data in Alaska Local and Regional Information is by place of residence - Alaska, Region, Borough/Census Area and Community - and residency is established by matching wage record file data with Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD) information.

Alaska Local and Regional Information is a snapshot of an area's resident workforce rather than a snapshot of an area's economy. It's more of a community profile than an economic profile. For example, all Alaska carpenters that fall within our "wage and salary" definition (essentially are on someone's payroll and are reported on an Alaska unemployment insurance quarterly report) who live in the geographic area are counted *whether or not they work in the area*.

The wage record file is derived from ADOLWD's Occupational Database (ODB) and contains quarterly earnings, occupation and industry information on workers covered by unemployment insurance within Alaska. The PFD file is a list of Alaskans who either applied for or received a PFD. Workers included in ODB were considered Alaska residents if they applied for a PFD in at least one of the two most recent years. Most of the data in Alaska Local and Regional Information is for Alaska residents only; nonresidents are not included in this data. The exception is that there are some nonresident data at the Borough/Census Area level in the **Top Occupations** and **Resident Workers by Industry** tables.

- ◆ For a match to occur, the worker's social security number must have appeared in both the PFD and the wage file. Workers with missing social security numbers were excluded from the analysis.
- ◆ Alaska Local and Regional Information captures data for workers in private sector, state and local government covered by unemployment insurance within Alaska. Federal workers, military and the self-employed are not included.
- ◆ Workers are assigned to the occupation and industry in which they earned the most money. A person will be counted only once, even if they worked in multiple occupations.
- ◆ The duration of a worker's employment is not a factor in the count of workers - a person is counted as a worker once they earn any wages covered under Alaska's unemployment insurance system.
- ◆ Some data that don't reach confidentiality thresholds are suppressed.
- ◆ Some wages may have been earned elsewhere in the state.

For more information on Alaska communities, visit Commerce, Community and Economic Development's excellent Community Database Online at http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF_BLOCK.htm.

How do the population estimate and number of residents age 16+ differ?

The population estimate is derived from a model based on the decennial census and administrative data. Alaska permanent fund dividend (PFD) data, vital statistics, and survey information are used to determine population change. Military and residents of group quarters, such as dormitories and prisons, are included in population estimates.

The number of residents age 16+ is derived from the PFD data and based upon the physical address of PFD applicants. Only Alaska residents who apply for the PFD are counted. Most military and seafood processing workers are not residents and would not apply for a PFD so are not included in this data series.

Who are UI Claimants?

UI Claimants are persons who have an active unemployment insurance claim in the reported year.

What is a New Hire?

New hires are a subset of the total number of workers. If a worker is a new hire for one or more employers, they are counted as a new hire in 2008. A new hire is defined as a worker that did not work for that employer in any of the previous four quarters. New hires include turnover replacements as well as new jobs and should not be used to infer net job growth trends.

What is AGIA?

AGIA is an acronym for Alaska Gasline Inducement Act. The occupations with an AGIA tag belong to a list of 113 occupations considered significant in constructing a natural gas pipeline.

What are Hot Jobs?

For an occupation to have the Hot Job tag, it must have a percent of growth greater than that for all occupations as a whole; be projected to grow by at least 75 jobs over the ten-year period 2006-2016; and must rank in the top two wage quartiles. (Occupations lacking wage data were not eligible.) To view the complete list of Alaska's Hot Jobs go to <http://labor.alaska.gov/research/iodata/hotjobs.xls>.

Where does the Population Over Time Information come from?

The graph uses Census 2000 data for the 2000 population figure. Succeeding years' data are annual estimates using the 2000 figure as a benchmark. The 2000 population is an actual count; succeeding year populations are estimates.

What changes in geography have occurred since the 2000 census?

Skagway Municipality and Hoonah-Angoon Census Area: The Municipality of Skagway incorporated as a First Class Borough on June 20, 2007. The city of Skagway dissolved and the borough boundaries are the former city boundaries. The remainder of the Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area was named the Hoonah-Angoon Census Area.

Wrangell City and Borough and Petersburg Census Area: The City and Borough of Wrangell incorporated as a Unified Home Rule Borough on May 30, 2008. The City of Wrangell dissolved. The boundaries for the borough extend beyond the former City of Wrangell boundaries and include a portion of the former Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area. The remainder of the Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area was named the Petersburg Census Area.

Ketchikan Gateway Borough and Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area: The Ketchikan Gateway Borough annexed 4,510 sq acres from the former Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area on May 31, 2008. The boundaries of the Census Area were redrawn and the area was named the Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section
Last updated: 16-Jun-09